0091

Equal Rights

VOL. XII, No. 49
FIVE CENTS

SATURDAY,
JANUARY 16, 1926

Jessie Dell

of Georgia, whose appointment by President Coolidge as United States Civil Service Commissioner was unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate on January 5. Miss Dell has been a prominent member of the Woman's Party since it was first organized, and for the last year has been chairman of the Government Workers' Council.

Feminist Notes

Jersey Woman Refused Admission to Parliament

THE Crown Officers of Jersey (English dominion) have refused Caroline Trachy's nomination as a deputy to the States Parliament. Mrs. Trachy, declaring that 70 per cent. of the island electorate wants her to represent them, is fighting the refusal, and has asked Jersey women to refuse to vote in the coming election as a protest.

Kansas Woman Politician Dies

MINNIE J. GRINSTEAD, who seconded the nomination of President Coolidge, and was the first woman ever elected to the Kansas Legislature, died on Christmas Eve.

Women Win Rght in Office

THE New South Wales Assembly has passed a bill providing for the appointment of women to the legislative council.

Woman Consul From Nicaragua

BERTHA DE SELVA DE BALYEAT is the new Nicaraguan consul at Long Beach, California. Mrs. Selva was born in New Orleans, and is descended from Daniel Boone and Robert E. Lee. She is the first woman to come to the United States as a consul.

Woman Demands Reinstatement

ANNETTE S. GUDGER, a stenographer in the Richmond Bureau of the United States Veterans' Bureau, discharged on December 15, has demanded through court action that she be reinstated. She says she served as a yeowoman in the United States Navy during the war, and that her discharge was in violation of the provision of the law which gives preference to employes with military service. Mrs. Gudger's case will come up before the District of Columbia Supreme Court on January 22, when Director Hines of the Veterans' Bureau, and H. W. Longfellow, chief of its personnel division, have been ordered to appear to show cause why she should not be reinstated. It would seem that a woman's war record is not considered.

Women Demand Jury Service in Missouri

A MOVEMENT has been started in Missouri by women leaders of various organizations to admit women for jury service. An amendment to the State constitution adopted in 1921 made women eligible for public office, but this has not been interpreted to include jury service.

Woman Protects Men

IF the sexes in the following item from the New York *Times* were reversed, it would be used as an argument against women's equal participation in all phases of human life:

"A little gray-haired widow attacked three hold-up men yesterday morning, drove them from their victim, whom they were beating and robbing, and then clung to the running-board of the cab in which they attempted to escape until police help arrived.

"Mrs. Bessie Ellinger, janitress of three tenements, 55, 57 and 59 West 109th street, was making her early rounds when she heard cries for help in the hallway of 59. In the rear she found three men beating Frederick Pohorles, a taxi chauffeur. Mrs. Ellinger entered the battle then and there so vigorously that the three robbers fled to Pohorles' cab in front of the house. Mrs. Ellinger followed and jumped on the running-board.

"As the machine started toward Columbus avenue the woman pulled a police whistle from her apron pocket and started blowing. She was hanging on by one arm thrown inside the open window of the cab door, and one of the robbers pounded her arm and wrenched at her fingers until, near Columbus avenue, she lost her grip and fell.

"Patrolman Sullivan of the West 100th Street Station had heard the whistle and came up just as the men stopped the cab and tried to get away on foot. Sullivan grabbed two, and just as the third started up the avenue Mrs. Ellinger again entered the fray. The man turned and struck her. She returned his punch and unaided subdued him while Sullivan arrested the other two."

First Woman Arbitrator

THE first woman ever designated by the United States as an arbitrator will be one of the seventeen attorneys representing the United States in February when claims are argued before the Mixed Claims Commission, established by the United States and Mexico. Hope Thompson, a graduate of the Washington College of Law, is the one woman attorney in the arbitration. After her graduation in 1913, she attempted to take a law course in Columbia University, but she found that women could not be admitted to the law school of Columbia University, and therefore matriculated as a student of political science.

Blow Aimed at Picketing

PICKETING by labor unions and by organizations desiring to call the attention of public officials to certain issues will be prohibited in the District of Columbia if a measure introduced by Representative Tom Blanton of Texas is passed. The District Commissioners have approved Mr. Blanton's measures.

Part of the measure prohibits picketing by labor unions, and another part, interpreted as aimed at such picketing as was used by the National Woman's Party to call the attention of President Wilson to women's demand for suffrage, reads:

"It shall be unlawful likewise for any person to do any of the things set forth in the preceding section for the purpose of influencing any officer in any official or public matter of the United States Government or the District of Columbia, or any foreign official, minister, or ambassador at his office or official place of business or at the residence of such official."

Unique Woman's Page in Turkish Paper

A PAGE devoted to women is an innovation in a new Constantinople daily, the *People's Paper,* the New York *Evening Post* reports. It contains no advice to the lovelorn, and no fashions, but news of women's public activities, discussions of the problems of the women who work in homes, in offices, in schoolrooms, or in factories. Turkey's first woman doctor, Sefie Ali Hanoum, writes on health.

Equal Rights in Turkish Divorce

WOMEN have won the right to be granted divorces in Turkey on the same grounds as men, and the old provision that a man could divorce his wife simply by saying in the presence of two witnesses, "I divorce so-and-so," or of writing the same words, has been abolished, the press reports.

Women Outnumber Men in Cigar Factories

THERE are 50,684 women employed in the 10,320 cigar factories in the United States today, and only 13,441 men, according to a survey made by the United States Department of Labor.

Little Girls More Popular

BABY girls are more in demand for adoption than baby boys, according to the adoption figures of the District of Columbia for the last two years. In 1924 37 girls were adopted, and 33 boys. In 1925, 32 girls were adopted, and only 19 boys.

Wage Earners' Mass Meeting To Be Held

BECAUSE economic equality is, after all, the real foundation for all Equal Rights, women wage-earners of every kind—factory workers, clerical workers, business women, etc.—are planning a great mass-meeting in Washington under the auspices of the National Woman's Party to lay before the Republican Administration and Congress women's demand for Equal Rights in the economic world.

The meeting will be held at the Belasco Theatre at 3 P. M., January 17. The Belasco, situated as it is on Lafayette Square, so near to the White House, has been the scene of many suffrage meetings, and has many times before been hung with the purple, white, and gold of the Woman's Party. These banners will again decorate its walls and its stage, and it will again ring with the stirring words and music of the Woman's Party song:

The walls that hold us from our onward sweeping,
Walls barring women ever from the reaping—
These walls must fall.
Standing together, women shall take their lives in their own keeping.

Horizons wider, wider, ending never,
Horizons beckoning whither and whereso-ever,
Horizons call, "Enter and conquer
The wider world, ever and forever."

This song was written by Josephine Preston Peabody, and was her last poem. It is sung to an old folk air. The music at the mass-meeting will be directed by Kate Glennan, one of the leading choir directors of Washington. The Woman's Party is proud to have so eminent a woman musician direct the chorus of women's voices which will again sing the women's song of freedom, which was so frequently heard on Lafayette Square in the picketing days.

Among the speakers on the program for the meeting are: Rheta Childe Dorr, ardent Feminist, author, and war correspondent; Margaret Hinchey, an elevator operator on Fulton street, New York City; Mary Murray, president of the Woman's League of the Brooklyn and Manhattan Railroad; Josephine Casey of Chicago, a member of and formerly an organizer for the American Federation of Labor; and Mabel Vernon, National Executive Secretary of the Woman's Party.

Mrs. Dorr is a woman who has all her life faced the problems of the self-supporting woman, who has also a child to rear and support. She knows well the existing discriminations against women, not only in her own profession, journalism, but also in the industrial field, where she has worked in many capacities in a large number of factories.

Mrs. Dorr's first book was "What Eight Million Women Want," based on her own experiences when as a reporter in search of material for the book she worked in a department store, and a steam laundry, sewed in a shirt factory and packed in a biscuit factory, finding everywhere that women and girls did the dirty work and took the smallest wages. Her last book, recently reviewed in EQUAL RIGHTS, is "A Woman of Fifty." In between she reported the Russian Revolution and the World War, campaigned for President Coolidge in the last election, and has just returned from a three months' survey of conditions in Central Europe.

Mrs. Murray has been for eighteen years an employe of the B. M. T. Railroad, and has also supported and reared her children, unaided. She led the struggle of the women in transportation to have themselves exempted from the provisions of the Lockwood bill, which prevented their working at night, thereby closing the more lucrative positions to women, and throwing 3,000 women railroad workers out of their jobs.

Doris Stevens will also speak on the effects of industrial legislation which is based on sex rather than on the type of the work.

Edith Houghton Hooker, chairman of the National Council of the Woman's Party, will preside and introduce the speakers.

Boxes for the mass-meeting have been taken by Sophie Meredith, chairman of the Virginia Branch of the Woman's Party; Jessie Dell, Civil Service Commissioner; Maud Younger, Congressional Chairman of the National Woman's Party; Mrs. Peter Drury of Washington; Mrs. Anne Archbold, Maine; Mrs. Florence Bayard Hilles, Delaware; Dr. Caroline Spencer, Colorado; Mrs. Emile Berlinet, District of Columbia, and others.

Women wage-earners from various parts of the country will be present for the mass-meeting, which had to be held on Sunday because the women workers could not afford to lose their day's work. About twenty-five women wage-earners are coming from New York. Eighty women in Maryland trades and occupations have indicated their intention of attending the mass-meeting, and have chartered three busses to bring them to Washington. Florence Garvin is chairman of a delegation of industrial women coming from Arden, Delaware. Pennsylvania has already chosen some of its labor delegates. Mrs. Callahan, an employe of the Ford Motor Car Company, Detroit, will be in the delegation.

During the mass-meeting a delegation of wage-earning women, bearing the banners of their trades and occupations, will march to the White House carrying their petition for legal and economic equality, and will return to report on the reception of their messages. They will seek an audience with the President on Monday to present their case in person.

Many of the women coming for the mass-meeting on Sunday will remain as delegates from branches of the National Woman's Party to the labor conference to be held under the auspices of the United States Department of Labor, January 18-21. Women's organizations, labor-women, and manufacturers' organizations have been invited to send delegates to this conference, the call for which was issued by Mary Anderson, chief of the Women's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor.

The National Woman's Party was asked to send three delegates from National Headquarters and one from each of the State branches. Some of the delegates have already been named, but many have not yet been finally chosen, as it is difficult for women who work to take time enough from their jobs to attend the four-day conference. Several branches, however, have already arranged for sending official delegates to the conference.

The Womans' Party found, after announcing its intention of holding the mass-meeting, that it did not have to stimulate interest on the part of wage-earning women in economic equality. Everywhere groups eager to have their demands for "a fair field and no favor" heard have indicated their intention of sending delegates to the mass-meeting if possible, and have assured the Woman's Party of their earnest desire to see women have the same opportunities, the same pay, the same responsibilities, in industry, in business, and in the professions as men have.

Mabel Vernon, executive secretary, and Margaret Whittemore, vice-president of the National Woman's Party, both came to Washington to help in the plans for the meeting.

This event is considered one of the most important ever held in the interests of Equal Rights, because of the basic significance of the economic question. No real equality can exist without economic equality.

Equal Rights

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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

To remove all forms of the subjection of women.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation"

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 21. House Joint Resolution Number 75.]

Introduced in the Senate, December 10, 1923, by Senator Charles E. Curtis.
Introduced in the House of Representatives, December 13, 1923, by Representative D. R. Anthony.

The B. and O. Agreement

THE agreement entered into by the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employes and the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, under which after January 1, 1926, no married women, whose husbands are working, will be employed by the company, states in unequivocal fashion a prejudice which, though ordinarily not phrased in words, operates constantly to defeat the economic independence of women. The agreement reads:

> INTERPRETATIONS—FEMALE EMPLOYES GETTING MARRIED.
> (*Negotiated in Conference, Effective July* 16, 1925.)
>
> In order to obviate complaints that have arisen in the strict application of seniority rules and to give preference in employment to those having the responsibility of families or dependents, it is agreed that:
>
> (*Negotiated in Conference, Effective June* 16, 1925.)
>
> (a) Any female employe getting married will at once resign from the service and will be relieved as promptly as conditions will permit. If there are extenuating circumstances that warrant the retention of such employes in the service, it will be by mutual agreement between the Management and the duly accredited representatives of the employes.
>
> (*Negotiated in Conference, Effective June* 16, 1925.)
>
> (b) Any female employe who is married and whose husband is working will resign from the service on or before January 1, 1926. If there are extenuating circumstances that warrant the retention of such employes in the service, it will be by mutual agreement between the Management and the duly accredited representatives of the employes.

THERE is a frankness about this agreement that is usually lacking in the rules and bills advocated by labor men for wage-earning women. Discussion with members of the Railway Clerks' organization makes it clear that the purpose of the agreement is to provide for "a more equitable distribution of employment;" in other words, to supply jobs for men and "single" women at the expense of married women. The Railway Clerks apparently find nothing unjust in their action; on the contrary they feel that the agreement is really a benefit all round, for does it not imply that married women have a right to be supported by their husbands and that men with families therefore have a prior right to paying jobs? Needless to say, the signatures attached to the document are all those of men.

There is something dumbfounding in the attitude of these trade-unionists who are themselves demanding justice from the social system, but who deny the most elemental fair play to their fellow-employes. It would seem impossible that they should not realize that the arbitrary removal of a competent employe from a remunerative position is tantamount to robbery. Were the case reversed they would see it readily enough.

IT is a clear economic fact that the most primitive right of a human being is the right to work for wages. When one is denied this right one's status becomes that of a slave, who is fed from the hand of a master and from whom obedience and service can be exacted as the price of maintenance. Since all property is derived from labor, to deny a married woman the right of independent employment is at the same time to repudiate her most essential property rights. The married women's property acts become nul and void in face of such agreements, for they cut off property at its source by cancelling the earning power of the individual.

The main defense offered for the agreement is that no family should have two incomes while some families have none. It is to be remarked, however, that no objection is offered by labor men to having unmarried sons and daughters of adequate age supplement the family income. It is only when the wife adds to the family exchequer that opposition appears.

Already the resentment of women is beginning to express itself against the Baltimore and Ohio agreement. It is to be hoped that this resentment will phrase itself boldly and in a practical way. If this agreement is allowed to stand, it will be but the precursor of others, for the Railway Clerks are not the only men who are greedy for jobs. As an effective retort we suggest that while married women are not employed by the Baltimore and Ohio, married women, and all women for the matter of that, should refuse to patronize that railroad. Let the management and the employes understand that the public will not tolerate such injustice and the agreement will disappear amid other relics of our "protectors'" oppressions.

Jessie Dell Confirmed by the Senate

THE United States Senate on Tuesday, January 5, for the second time unanimously voted to confirm the appointment by President Coolidge of Jessie Dell of Georgia as National Civil Service Commissioner.

This action was made necessary by the request of Senator William H. King (Democrat, Utah) for reconsideration of the original vote to confirm, which, when granted in conformity with senatorial courtesy, had the effect of vacating the confirmation until after the holidays. When the vote was taken for the second time Senator King joined his colleagues, making Miss Dell's confirmation again unanimous.

Senator King's request for reconsideration was made on the strength of a petition addressed to all members of the Senate by the Woman Patriot Publishing Company, the only anti-Feminist organization now in existence, opposing the confirmation of Miss Dell, and charging her with being a Feminist, and a member of the National Woman's Party.

The petition of this organization, which is a descendant of the one-time National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage, and which now bears on its letterhead, "Opposed to Feminism and Communism," was . fore the Civil Service Committee of the Senate when it agreed to report favorably on Miss Dell, and on the desks of all the members of the Senate when on December 21, without a dissenting vote, her nomination was confirmed.

The "Patriot" then appealed to Senator King, and he requested and obtained the consent of the Senate to reconsider pending an investigation of the accusations made in the petition, an extraordinary document, signed by Mary G. Kilbreth, president of the Woman Patriot Publishing Company, which presented in eight single-spaced multigraphed pages an array of charges, frequently interspersed with incomplete quotations from EQUAL RIGHTS, that the National Woman's Party, by some secret and sinister "pressure system," had obtained the appointment of Miss Dell, and that the Woman's Party is an un-American organization with a concealed design to establish a tyranny of women in the guise of equality.

The reconsideration requested by Senator King served only to emphasize the absurdity of the charges against Miss Dell, and to give Senators an opportunity again to endorse the judgment of President Coolidge in the matter of her appointment, which they did by a unanimous vote in executive session the day after the reconvening of Congress following the holiday recess. By this action the Senate for the second time reaffirmed its faith in Miss Dell's ability and her fitness for the high post of Civil Service Commissioner for which she had been endorsed alike by Democrats and Republicans, and by both sides of the Civil Service reorganization controversy.

Woman's Party's Delaration of Principles on Economic Equality

Women shall no longer be barred from any occupations, but every occupation open to men shall be open to women, and restrictions upon the hours, conditions, and remuneration of labor shall apply alike to both sexes.

Women shall no longer be discriminated against in the legal, the medical, the teaching, or any other profession, but the same opportunities shall be given to women as to men in training for professions, and in the practice of these professions.

Women shall no longer be discriminated against in civil and government service, but shall have the same right as men to authority, appointment, advancement, and pay in the executive, the legislative, and the judicial branches of the government service.

Women shall no longer be discriminated against in the foreign trade, consular, and diplomatic service, but women as well as men shall represent our country in foreign lands.

Women shall no longer receive less pay than men for the same work, but shall receive equal compensation for equal work in public and private employment.

Women shall no longer be discriminated against in the economic world because of marriage, but shall have the same treatment in the economic world after marriage as men have.

The palpably false and fantastic charges against Miss Dell were disposed of in brief speeches by Senators Harris and George of Georgia, Fletcher of Florida, and Underwood of Alabama, following which her appointment was unanimously reconfirmed.

The petition responsible for the reconsideration and reconfirmation of Miss Dell is so remarkable as to warrant publication in full, and it will therefore be printed in the next issue of EQUAL RIGHTS.

The "Patriot" did not confine itself to attacks on the National Woman's Party, which it termed the "extreme left wing of the Feminist movement." It went further and attacked what it called "Mrs. C. C. Catt's National League of Woman Voters," designating it as "the right wing of the Feminist movement." The customary respect for the dead was totally lacking, for the late Mrs. Helen H. Gardener, the first woman to serve as Civil Service Commissioner, was accused of blasphemy.

Miss Dell is from Sylvania, Georgia. She is a Democrat, and has been in Government service since October 11, 1899. During the war she was in charge of the important contracts division of the office of the quartermaster general, and at the same time was in charge of welfare work in the office of finance. Her work was specially commended by General Lord in a hearing before a congressional committee. She was also president of the War Department Auxiliary of the American Red Cross all during the war, and was a charter member of the Federal Employes' Union.

Miss Dell has been a prominent member of the National Woman's Party since it was first organized in 1913 to campaign for the adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, granting the right of suffrage to women. Since 1921 she has been active in the Woman's Party's campaign for Equal Rights between men and women, and for the last year has been chairman of the Government Workers' Council, one of the occupational groups organized by the Woman's Party to work for equal opportunity and pay in the economic world.

Of Miss Dell's merit, her former chief, Col. George H. Penrose, said when she resigned:

"The record shows that you have been in the employ of the Office of the Quartermaster General continuously since your appointment, October 11, 1899, and on assignment to duty in the Property Returns Branch, and later were on duty in other branches of this office, in all of which your services were most efficient.

"During the World War you were, on account of your efficiency and experience, placed in charge of the important Contract Branch. Later you were ordered overseas to Paris for duty with the American Graves Registration Service, Q. M. Corps, in Europe, to have charge of the Information Bureau and to, especially, render assistance to bereaved relatives seeking the graves of their dead. Many letters in this office testify the gratitude of such relatives for the kindly sympathy and tact with which you performed these duties.

"I regard your separation as a decided loss to the service, and I wish and predict, for you, that success in the future to

which your ability and personality so eminently entitle you."

Of her service to her country, given voluntarily while she was very busy with her own position in the War Department, too much cannot be said.

These facts are reviewed, not in defense of Miss Dell, for her record and her loyalty to the Government service stand as her own defense, but as adding point to the ludicrousness of this attack on her because of her unfailing stand for justice and equal opportunity, regardless of sex.

Gratification over the Senate's confirmation of Miss Dell was expressed by the National Woman's Party in letters of appreciation sent to President Coolidge and Senators Curtis (Kans.), Smoot (Utah), Pepper (Pa.), Fess (Ohio), and Jones (Wash.), Republicans; and McKellar (Tenn.), Harrison and Stephens (Miss.), Harris and George (Ga.), Democrats; and other Senators who aided particularly in the campaign for Miss Dell's appointment.

Alice Paul, commenting on the nomination, said:

"We, of course, were primarily interested in having the position go to a woman as a part of our campaign for Equal Rights in public office, both elective and appointive, and particularly to a woman who would make a fight for the interests of women in the Government service. We should have been glad to have any woman of this type appointed to the position.

"We know Miss Dell to be one who is, because of her experience, ability, personality, and staunch stand for justice and efficiency, exceptionally well fitted for the position, and the National Woman's Party is therefore glad that she has been appointed by President Coolidge and confirmed by the Senate.

"We are indeed pleased that so well qualified a woman should have been chosen to fill this post, the highest in authority and prestige ever held by a woman in our Government, and, with the assistant attorney generalship, the highest in pay ever held by a woman in the Government service.

"It is important that a woman who stands for Equal Rights between men and women fill this position, inasmuch as the Government is the largest employer of women in the country."

Many individuals and leaders of organizations of varied nature recommended Miss Dell's appointment as Civil Service Commissioner, including local branches of the National Woman's Party, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Democratic women's clubs, and similar organizations.

A dinner in honor of Miss Dell, to which women leaders of various organizations throughout the country will be invited, will be given at an early date by the National Woman's Party in Washington.

Equal Rights for Women

By Rheta Childe Dorr

(*Reprinted from the New York Times, December* 20, 1925.)

To the Editor of the New York Times:

Yesterday afternoon a group of women met in the new headquarters of the New York Committee of the National Woman's Party, 233 East Sixty-eighth street, and passed a resolution. This would not be worth much as a news item were it not for the fact that other groups of women all over the country are holding similar meetings and passing identical resolutions.

Next month the New York State group will lead the others by carrying that resolution to the White House and to Congress. Those who will present it to President Coolidge will appropriately be working women, for it is they who are most immediately concerned. But none of the women who met in New York yesterday and voted aye, backing up their vote with generous contributions of money, were in any doubt as to the number of women who will ultimately be concerned. All women will be. All American women first, and following them all the women who live now and who will come after them; women who work in factories and women who hold high rank in the professions; women in the kitchen and debutantes who claim the right to dance in cabarets rather than in private ballrooms.

The resolution, over which I hope I have excited some small degree of curiosity, reads as follows:

"*Whereas,* seventy-five years have passed since the first conference for Equal Rights for women, led by Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, met at Seneca Falls, and demanded Equal Rights in the franchise, in education, in industry, in the professions, in political office, in marriage, in personal freedom, in control of property, in guardianship of children, etc.;

"*Whereas,* today only one object—the right to vote—has been attained;

"*Whereas,* Equal Rights passed by State Legislatures may be reversed by later Legislatures, while an amendment to the United States Constitution would establish the principle of Equal Rights permanently in this country;

"*Resolved,* The meeting of members and friends of the National Woman's Party, held at 233 East Sixty-eighth street, December 13, 1925, declares itself to be in favor of the principle of Equal Rights for men and women, and urges the President of the United States, two United States Senators and Representative John F. Carew of the Eighteenth Congressional District to work for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment submitted to Congress for action."

The statement that women, after seventy-five years of unceasing effort, have won only a single right for which the women in Seneca Falls contended may be objected to by some. But it is perfectly true that the other rights, even the right of married women to the property they have inherited or the wages they have earned, have not been attained by women in all the States of the Union. In many States a married woman's "services" still belong to her husband. In other States a woman's children are still the sole property of their father.

It is the firm purpose of the most advanced group of women in the United States that an amendment to the Constitution shall at one gesture free all the women of the United States from all their disabilities before the law. And they mean by this all possibilities of future inequalities, such as, for instance, those represented in a measure introduced on the opening day of the present Congress by Senator Johnson of California, seeking to extend what is humorously called "protective legislation" for women wage-earners.

Mr. Editor, is it not news that a very large and increasing party of women, in every State in the Union, organize for the purpose of getting rid not only of their disabilities, but of their so-called advantages as a protected class? Is it not news that in every kind of society, First avenue and Fifth avenue, women are claiming the right to protect themselves? If it is not, then I have lost my news sense and am ready to go on the retired list of journalists.

DO not discriminate against your Congressmen. Other States are sending EQUAL RIGHTS to their Members of Congress. Why neglect yours? Six months' subscription only one dollar. Send names and addresses to Equal Rights, 19 West Chase street, Baltimore, Md.

Mothers' Pension Bills in Congress

By Emma Wold,
Member of the U. S. Supreme Court Bar

BILLS introduced in Congress by Senator Wadsworth (S. 120) and Mr. Mills (H. R. 4055), and by Senator Capper (S. 1929) and Mr. Keller (H. R. 347), would provide so-called mothers' pensions in the District of Columbia.

The first two bills are identical and are entitled "A Bill to establish in the District of Columbia a Board of Mothers' Assistance in aid of destitute mothers and making appropriations therefor." The other bills are also identical and are briefly entitled, "A Bill to provide home care for dependent children in the District of Columbia."

Under the Wadsworth-Mills bill an allowance would be made on account of each destitute child under sixteen years of age whose father is (1) dead, or (2) an inmate of an institution for mental defectives, or (3) of a penal institution, or is (4) permanently incapacitated for work because of mental or physical infirmity, or (5) has deserted the mother, or (6) is divorced. In the last two cases it must be shown that the mother has taken legal steps to compel the father to support the child, and has been unsuccessful or has secured inadequate support. The allowance is to be made to the mother; but if she be dead or be considered an improper person to receive it, it may be made to "any competent female relative of the child," or if there is no such relative, to "any other person who shall take the responsibility for the child."

The mother must have been a resident of the District of Columbia for two years, or, if she is dead, it must appear that, if she were alive, she would have been a resident for that period.

The amount of allowance under this bill would rest with the Board of Mothers' Assistance to be appointed by the President to administer the Act, but in no case shall it exceed the amount that would be required to support the child in an institutional home. The bill provides a review of each case every six months.

Under the Capper-Keller Bill the allowance would be made on the application of the mother to the Board of Charities of the District of Columbia "whenever the parent of a child under the age of sixteen years is unable to provide for the proper care of such child in his own home." It must be shown that the mother is a proper person to have the care of the child, that she has taken legal steps to compel the father, if living, to provide support, and that the home is a satisfactory place for the training of the child. The administrating board must investigate whether any real or personal property is owned by the parent or held in trust for the child, and whether any person or organization is legally obliged to assist in its support.

The mother must be a citizen of the United States, or must have made application to become one, and she must have been a resident of the District for one year.

The amount of the allowance would be determined by what is necessary properly to maintain the child in the home with the mother, and the board may impose such conditions upon the mother as will promote the welfare of the child. No allowance may be made for more than six months, and a review of the case must be made at least that often.

Both bills authorize an appropriation for carrying out the Act. They have been referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia in each House.

The terms of these bills are clearly for the benefit of the child, not of the mother, except as the assistance provided may contribute indirectly to her happiness in having her children in her home instead of in an institution. The child is to be reared under conditions that will promote its welfare and make it a valuable member of society. From this point of view, the father may well be aided where the mother is dead, or has deserted, or is unable to take her customary share of the family burden, and the investigating board finds that the father can provide a proper home for his children by means of such aid. The Mothers' Compensation Act of Colorado, though its title appears to limit its benefits to mothers, provides that aid may be given to "the parent or parents" who are poor and unable properly to care for a child, if they otherwise are proper guardians, or to some other person designated by the court.

A similar provision in the bills for the District of Columbia would go far toward carrying out more fully the real purpose of this kind of law, which is to give the child home care. This would be in harmony with the actual needs of children and with the equality of rights of fathers and mothers to assistance for their children in periods of misfortune.

At the hearings on the bills before the committee of the House on January 6 and before the committee of the Senate on January 11, the National Woman's Party presented the view that the proposed legislation should make assistance available for either or both parents, as under the Colorado law.

Married Women in Industry Increase

SECRETARY OF LABOR JAMES J. DAVIS, reporting to Congress on the importance and need of a study on married women in industry, uses the following language: "In consideration of the urgent problems now before the department, a very important aspect presents itself for special study if we seriously accept the American home as the foundation of our social structure.

"Although the employment of married women has for some years been the theme of much discussion, it has now become a subject of supreme importance nationally. Census figures show that there were almost 2,000,000 married women in gainful occupations in 1920, exclusive of the widowed, divorced, or deserted; that there was a 53.7 per cent. increase in the number of married women in manufacturing and mechanical industries, trade, and transportation during the decade from 1910 to 1920. While the census figures give the number of married women with husbands living at home, these figures fail to show the number of widowed or divorced mothers at work or the number of children affected by the employment of mothers.

"In a study of census schedules made by the department for four cities—selected because they were representative of different sections and conditions in the country and fairly typical of industrial and rural communities in general—facts were brought to light showing that there were employed in these four cities 38,446 female workers, 14 years of age or over, or more than 38 per cent. of the total female population. Twenty-one thousand of them were or had been married, and over 61 per cent. of these were living with wage-earning husbands. Over one-half of the 21,000 who were or had been married were mothers, and two-fifths had children under the age of five years. Almost two-fifths of the mothers were employed outside the home. The problem of the employed married woman, and especially of the employed mother, linked so closely as it is with the welfare of the home and the family, is naturally one of the most vital as well as one of the most complex problems before the country today."

Press Comment

The Woman Question in America

By
Ann Tizia Leitich,
Neue Freie Press, Vienna, Austria.

FOR the goal of complete equality, there is working in America a great organization of women, the National Woman's Party, which is striving above all things to secure the so-called Lucretia Mott Amendment, which reads as follows: "Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdicion." The National Woman's Party is not satisfied, however, with accomplishing this ideal only in America. The American women recognize no limiting Monroe Doctrine in connection with the rights which they desire. Under the presidency of a far-seeing American woman, Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont, they have attached an International Committee to their organization, which women of all European countries who are working in the same direction as the National Woman's Party will be invited to join. Some members have already been chosen. Mrs. Belmont has recently been in Europe and has got into touch with such women. It is her plan to create a kind of International Parliament of Women, before which the desires and just grievances of all the women of the world will be brought, will be considered together, and then together steps will be taken to remedy them.

This is a plan for which the women of the entire world should give recognition and thanks to Mrs. Belmont. It will soon no longer be the case that the women in one country will have rights of which the women in other lands scarcely dare to dream.

The International Parliament of Women

Translation of an Article by Gisela Urban in the Neues Wiener Abendblatt of Vienna, Austria.

THE organization to which this impressive name has been given is not an extensive one, nor one which is striving to reach the masses of women. Properly the official title of this new organization is the "International Advisory Council," and it is simply a committee of women which has been formed on the initiative of the National Woman's Party, one of the most important women's organizations in America, in order to establish the equality of women throughout the world. This committee is called "The International Parliament of Women," because it is composed of representatives of all nations, and also perhaps because the central headquarters of this committee is located in the old Capitol in Washington, in a great building opposite the National Capitol, the seat of the American Government.

At first glance it might appear that this new organization is superfluous. Progressive women in order to achieve Feminist goals have already organized themselves into several world-wide organizations of political and social importance, such as the International Council of Women, the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. But the International Parliament of Women in its struggle for complete equality differs from the other organizations, as has already been said, in that it does not depend upon the power of millions and millions of women. This organization concerns itself with uniting the prominent, far-seeing, and active women of the different nations to take counsel together about the ways and means which will lead to their goal. The International Parliament of Women is therefore in a manner breaking the way for the great women's organizations, which must always struggle to popularize and establish among their members the measures decided upon in their councils.

"Men are already thinking internationally. They are striving to bring about the co-operation of nations, since they clearly perceive that the slowness and backwardness of one people is an obstacle to the advance of other peoples. Just so, women must begin to think internationally. In no country can the women be assured of the rights which they have already gained, so long as the women of other lands are denied their rights." This was the tenor of a speech which Alice Paul, the Vice-President of the National Woman's Party, one of the most courageous leaders in the woman movement in America, delivered at a conference of this organization in 1923. The National Woman's Party then decided to organize for international work the International Woman's Parliament, which is not an official body, but, as Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont, the President of the National Woman's Party, said, "it shall be a platform for the women of the whole world in order to give them the opportunity to be heard." In short, this Woman's Parliament desires to remove as quickly as possible all the remaining forms of the subjection of women. The International Parliament of Women will be a kind of permanent conference, to see to it that the interests of women are guarded in international treaties and agreements, and that the complete equality of men and women is established throughout the world. * * *

The generosity of Mrs. Belmont is shown by the fact that she has given to the National Woman's Party for its National Headquarters the old Capitol mentioned above. From the front of the building waves a banner which bears the motto of the organization—"Equal Rights for men and women throughout the United States."

An important piece of work was done by this International Committee of women in October of this year, when the conference of the Interparliamentary Union took place in Washington. Women members of the German Reichstag, who were delegates to this conference, introduced a resolution, declaring for the recognition of the principle of the equality of women with men, and calling on the Interparliamentary Union to use its best efforts to establish this principle in all the Parliaments of the world. The resolution was referred to the Juridical Committee of the Union for study.

Eleven nations are already represented by distinguished women in the International Parliament of Women. Leaders among Austrian women who are known in other countries have been invited to join the committee.

Holds Women to Jury Duty

Associated Press

JUDGE CHAS. Y. AUDENRIED in the Philadelphia Criminal Court recently criticized women who failed to appear when called for jury duty, or who sent attorneys with excuses.

His criticism came when an attorney appeared for Mrs. George F. Pilling of the Chestnut Hill district, and asked that she be excused because she had to care for her two small children. She was ordered to appear in court.

"Those women who get their names on the voting lists and vote and want to exercise the privileges of men must respond when summoned to do their full duty as citizens," the judge said.

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